

SCHOOLS  
How big?

The convention  
center's back

Cutting  
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# DC Gazette

VOL VII NR 11

DECEMBER 1976

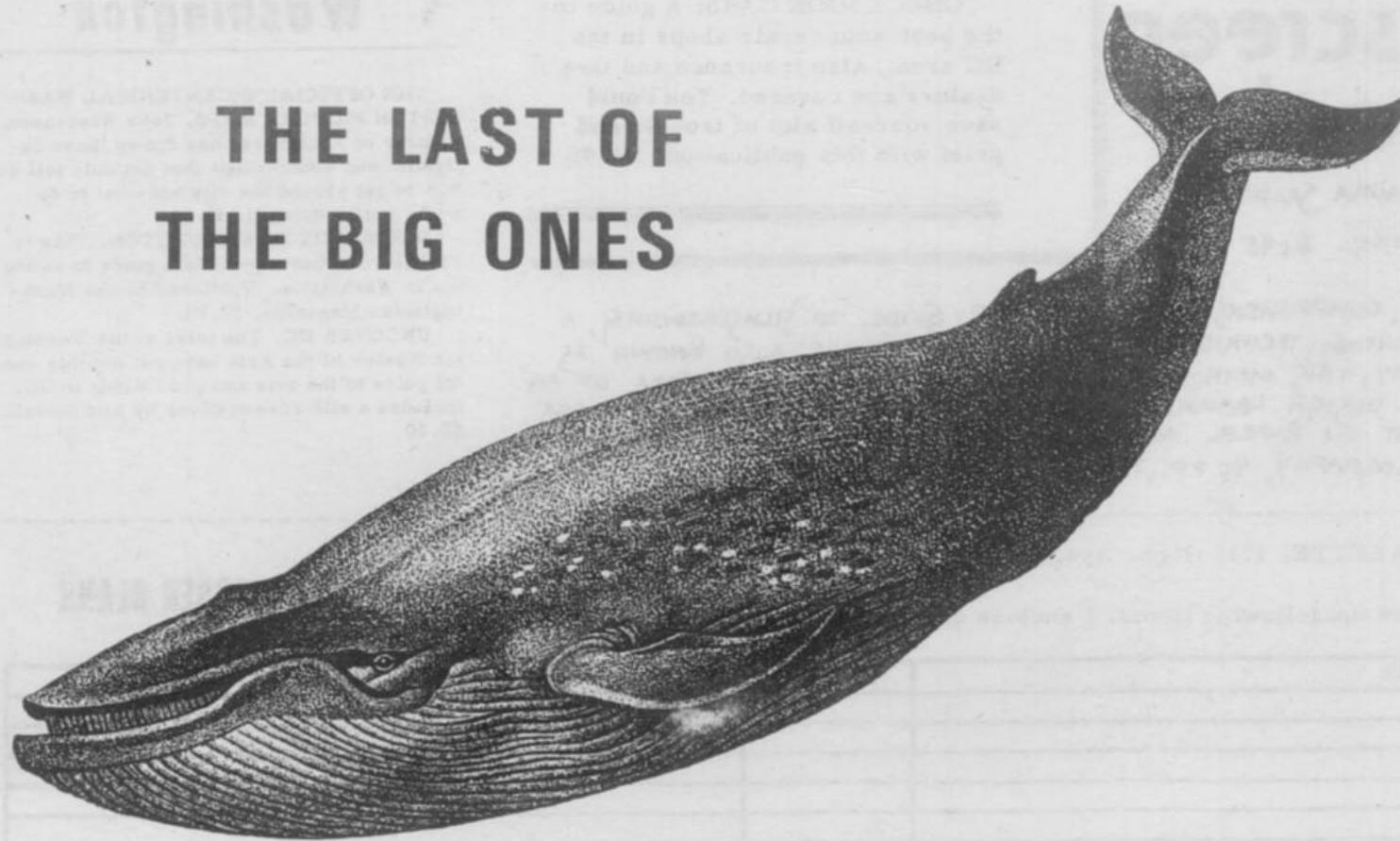
BOOK  
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P.2

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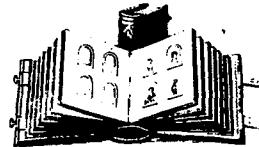
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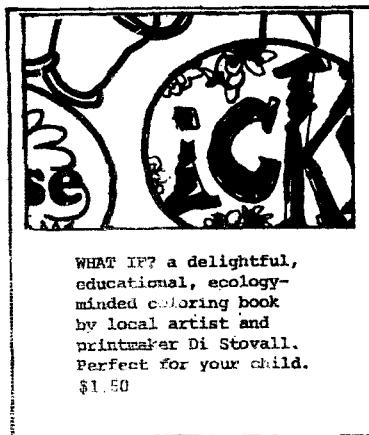
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WASHINGTON STAR GARDEN BOOK: A long time local classic. Lots of information keyed to local conditions. \$3.95

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NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS: The NYT gives it to you straight in this book for \$5.95.

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DEECEE BICENTENNIAL COMIX: August 1976 was the tenth anniversary of the Gazette. We celebrated by publishing a special edition filled with the humor and cartoons that lightened our pages during our first decade. You can get a copy for \$1, which is pretty cheap for a collector's item.

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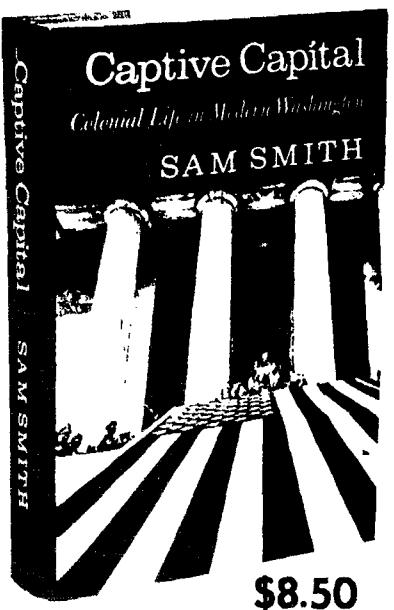
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# Captive Capital

*Colonial Life  
in Modern Washington*

Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THE GIVING TREE: A lovely, illustrated fable for children by Shel Silverstein. First published in 1964 and now a classic. \$3.95

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By Fred Ferretti  
Paper: \$3.95  
SBN: 0-911104-59-3  
Photographs and line art; 192 pages

It is that time after dinner but before bed in the dear languorous past of our summers on the stoop. Everybody can come out: Kenny, Don, Janet, Charlie, but especially the leader, Fred Ferretti, with his uncanny knack of remembering exactly where first base was in stickball (the driver's door of the 1935 Packard), his reverence for the Heinie Manush baseball flipping card, his recognition of the "spal-deen" as the one and only genuine and true playing ball.

Ferretti makes it all current in his newest book of games to play with little equipment beyond the imagination. What a world of fantasy, scheming, grandeur, bitter loss and heady conquest this is! Explicit directions for Pottsie (in diagram, with variations), instructions for Russia (one sidewalk-wall game, another being the devilish handball), Mumblety-Peg, Errors, Running Bases.



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A practitioner's manual and definitive treatise. Exactly what it claims to be and then some.

"The text is overstuffed with information, useful and otherwise," notes the *Washington Post*. ". . . the writing is bright and appropriate."

A truly complete book for the Frisbee amateur, expert, master. Including history, lore, disc anatomies, how-to, technique, aerodynamics, tricks, games (over 20 of them), tournaments, organizations, meteorologies, the dog. By the official historian for the International Frisbee Association.



The Toilet Book  
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60 pages, 5½ x 8½, \$3.00 spiralbound

FIXING CARS  
A PEOPLE'S PRIMER

Rick Greenspan, Lowell Turner, Ann Wagner, et al.

FIXING CARS will tell you "how-to" and a whole lot more. The people who wrote it learned the hard way themselves and then set out to share the experience. After an informative introduction there is an in-depth discussion of Woman and Cars. Next, "The Politics of Cars," which pulls together such things as auto history, planned obsolescence, auto companies, advertising and culture, and a bibliography.

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a chapter on "Tools"—what they are, what they do, what you need. Right down the line—each section complete—what you need to know, told straight and told well.

The style and format of FIXING CARS is reminiscent of John Muir's HOW TO KEEP YOUR VOLKSWAGEN ALIVE—and, while not as technical as the VW book, it may prove as valuable a tool for the inexperienced mechanic.

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PRESSURE



HOW TO SAVE MONEY  
TIME AND ENERGY  
IN THE KITCHEN

by Jane Voss

COOKING UNDER PRESSURE  
Jane Voss

"Jane Voss's COOKING UNDER PRESSURE is among the best spend-a-penny, save-a-pound cookbooks on the market this year. Subtitled "How to Save Money, Time and Energy in the Kitchen," it delivers on the promise, cutting through the mystique of pressure cooking with an intelligent introduction, complete list of do's and don'ts, cooking times for meats, poultry and fish, and more than 50 entree recipes." —Diane Wilson, THE WASHINGTON STAR.

When time is of the essence or a frugal use of energy is important, this small book, full of a wide variety of recipes for the pressure cooker is the answer. Jane Voss opens new horizons for the use of a pressure cooker.

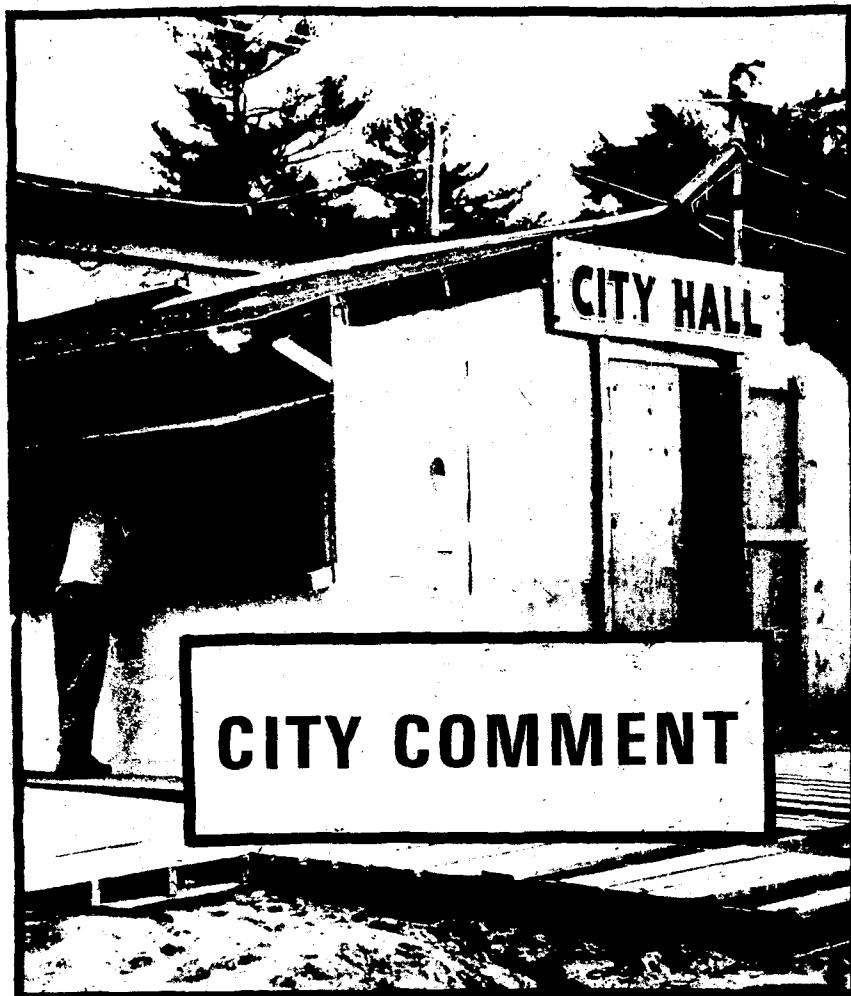
86 pages, 5½ x 8½, \$1.95 perfectbound



DINING OUT IN WASHINGTON  
By Charles F. Turgeon and Phyllis C. Richman  
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A complete guide to more than 150 places to dine in the Washington metropolitan area, featuring international cuisine.

- \* For visitors looking for the best dining values
- \* For residents looking for new dining adventures
- \* Evaluations of food, wine, service, and surroundings
- \* Information on prices, hours, and credit cards
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- \* Separate listings for restaurants with Sunday brunch, entertainment, and late night dining.



## Here it comes again

THE CITY is gearing up for another attempt to convince residents that everything would work out if we only had a convention center. The study that will provide the District Building's arguments for a center was not ready at presstime but we understand that it was being prepared with an alacrity matched only by Julian Dugas's investigation of Joe Yeldell.

And well it might be. A convention center is the number one quid pro quo that developer and business interests have demanded in return for their lavish financial support of the Walter Washington and Sterling Tucker campaigns. The last time the idea surfaced a coalition (including the Gazette, Councilmember Ted Meyers and the Washington Ecology Center) helped to kill the potentially financially disastrous and community-destroying center. This time the fight will be considerably more difficult. The city council — many of whose members are also the financial beneficiaries of the special interests pushing the center — has already endorsed the concept without even seeing the figures.

We'll wait for the figures before making a detailed comment. But a few things are worth noting:

- The city has already poured hundreds of millions of dollars into downtown to "revive" it. If a subway, building-smashing urban renewal, freeways and Streets for the People won't do it, it is unlikely that one more public structure will work either. At some point we must take the downtown business interests off the dole.
- Any new convention center will inevitably compete with existing facilities such as those at the hotels and at the Armory. Thus you must subtract from any alleged benefits of such a center the losses that will occur at these facilities.
- Finally, it is grimly cynical to suggest erecting a convention center at a time when the city cannot afford to keep its schools, food stamp centers and fire stations open. The city seems to be saying, "Let them eat panel discussions."

## The statehood sometime drive

LAST MONTH WE reported with pleasure a watershed editorial in the Washington Star, in which that paper began a strategic retreat from its blind devotion to Metro. This month there's more good news from the editorial page — this time, amazingly, from the lower reaches of 15th Street, where the Washington Post called for a referendum on the city's status at the next general election and asked those officials like Walter Fauntroy who oppose statehood "to set forth their arguments clearly — for statehood does seem a perfectly reasonable objective, and one that is becoming more and more appealing to a lot of people as the years go by."

Unfortunately, the Post editorial followed rather than preceded a city council vote on whether to consider a referendum bill proposed by Julius Hobson and "co-sponsored" by all the other council members except Polly Shackleton.

That vote found only Hobson and two co-sponsors

willing to take the matter up — Dave Clarke and Marion Barry. James Coates, Doug Moore and Jerry Moore were absent and all the others opposed consideration of the bill that they had helped to introduce.

Still, the Post editorial and the mere fact that the council voted on the matter are signs of the growing recognition of statehood as an issue that won't go away.

Good government groups like Common Cause and the League of Women Voters have conceded this by ending their long-standing attempt to ignore the statehood question. Now they are saying that statehood is a good long-term goal but it is not strategically wise to press it now. They form a sort of Statehood Sometime Movement.

As the Washington Star put it wryly in a six-column headline: "Is the Fastest Route to Statehood a Vote Against It?"

Well, we are not particularly inclined to take the strategic advice of the goo-goos at this late point. If the League, the Coalition for Self-Determination and Common Cause had had their way, there wouldn't be any statehood movement today. It is a bit presumptuous of them to suggest that they are now the experts on how to achieve statehood.

In fact, even if you accept the incremental approach as the best way to reach statehood, the goo-goos have chosen the least logical increment upon which to fasten their attention: going through the laborious process of passing a constitutional amendment that will probably give little more than a vote on the House floor to Walter Fauntroy.

Since the early part of this century, there has been a conflict between those who sought self-government first and those who preferred representation in Congress. Generally, business and conservative interests have backed representation while progressives have concentrated on self-government — for that is really what the battle is about.

In hewing to the representation-first line, the goo-goos seem to be saying that it is more important to enfranchise Mr. Fauntroy than it is to extend the franchise of the 720,000 other citizens of this city. Fighting for a local prosecutor or giving the city more budgetary control would also be incremental approaches, neither of them requiring a constitutional amendment. Unfortunately, the Coalition for Self-Determination and the other groups have opted for a cosmetic improvement in our status rather than fighting for such substantive changes. Even as incrementalists, they are on the wrong track.

## The Yeldell affair

WE RELUCTANTLY went to press when we had only reached the seventh installment of the current saga of Joe Yeldell & All the Little Yeldells. As this is written the Washington Star has just shoved its lead story of the Capital Edition — concerning numerous jobs Joe found in summer programs in order to keep the children of his friends and relatives off the street — down the page to make way for a late report

(Please turn to page 16)



I READ with interest the short article [November] lamenting the death of *Newsworks*. I think the lack of any successful alternative newspaper for Washington can be blamed on the triumph of style over substance which is, in my opinion, the calling card of white middle class culture in this metropolitan area.

Never have so many consumed so much and changed life so little. You have to fall down on your knees and cry out in laughter from the pain of seeing the commitment of millions of dollars to the image of a false reality divorced from the needs of human nature.

As one who has previously worked extensively in the alternative media, though not in this city, I have always held the point of view that the role of this type of publication is to make people think for themselves. It seems to me that you also advocate this point of view and have the advantage of sufficient endurance to keep up a good effort.

Once in a while you see something in journalism that makes you realize that a newspaper is not only encouraging people to take a fresh look at a situation; but also, that newspaper is speaking for its community. A newspaper is a voice. When the N.Y. Daily News printed the headline, "FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD!" in 60 pt plus type, it was speaking for the outrage the citizens of that city felt over being rejected by a callously indifferent President. There is a trap in outrage. Too much of it gets old real fast. So, you need a little humor. Doing alternative journalism in this city must be like carrying 10,000 pounds of chickens in a truck built to only carry half that load. This means you have to keep 50% of them airborne at all times to avoid an overload.

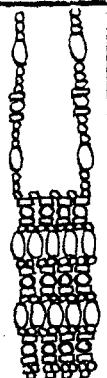
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# McLEAN GARDENS NEWS

### McLEAN GARDENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

In our last *Gazette* column, we wrote about the need for planning before development. We reported on our efforts to achieve this by calling upon the Executive Branch of the D.C. Government to initiate a Sectional Development Plan (SDP) for the greater McLean Gardens area. This is vital: we are currently faced with a development proposal to raze our homes and replace them with a mammoth embassy/chancery complex.

Now we wish to explain why we chose the SDP as the particular form of planning that we want. There are many alternatives citizens may take in response to development threats. To be sure, there is controversy within the Washington community over just what tack should be taken. In Georgetown, the citizens have tried to legislate their preservation; in Upper Northeast, their demand is for area-wide comprehensive planning. Ward II residents have tried to do the planning themselves, and we favor the SDP. Of course, the arguments, pro and con for each approach have only served the interests of government "planners," who quickly see a divided citizenry and a means to delay any sort of meaningful planning.

It is ironic: the Upper Northeast Coordinating Council (UNECC) considers area-wide comprehensive planning to be crucial in solving their problems, and they have been terribly frustrated with the failure of the Municipal Planning Office to respond favorably. Meanwhile, we have found that for our ward, MPO is preoccupied with comprehensive planning -- despite our demands for an SDP.

We could consider two other planning approaches: 1) comprehensive planning for the entire ward, as UNECC has demanded or 2) private or citizen-initiated planning as has been tried in several areas, most notably around Dupont Circle.

MPO has repeatedly asked us to wait for the Comprehensive Plan (which they hope to complete by the end of 1978), and we have considered it. But our development threats are immediate. We have no assurances that the developers will be asked to wait. In fact, we estimate that our McLean Gardens case will come before the Zoning Commission this spring. MPO has refused our request that developers be turned down until planning has been completed, and too much can occur between now and the end of 1978 for us to comply with MPO's request.

What about private planning? To be sure, it circumvents the delays that come with City Hall's inaction, but frankly, we do not have expertise. MPO employs professional planners, and supposedly they have the ability to do what citizens alone are not as capable of doing. In addition, the private, citizen-initiated method is often unrepresentative. An SDP requires the participation of representatives from two sectors in addition to the community: business and government. Private planning doesn't, and by definition, wouldn't. Even if we did develop a private plan, there would be nothing official about it. And there's the nub: those of us whose homes are at stake must have the government's commitment to planning for stability and rational development. An SDP would have that commitment.

The citizens need something that is official. If the plan -- the SDP -- bears the mark of a government agency, it will carry greater weight and have a greater chance of acceptance before other government agencies -- namely, the Zoning Commission. Besides, the Home Rule Act, among other statutes, places the responsibility for planning squarely before the Municipal Planning Office.

We do not mean to speak for other neighborhoods throughout the city where planning concerns may differ. We feel that in our ward and specifically in our immediate area, the SDP will provide an answer to our problem.

# How to cut property taxes

DONALD FIRKE & SUSAN KNIPPS

This article comes from a recent issue of *People & Taxes*, the publication of the Public Citizen Tax Reform Research Group (Box 14798, Ben Franklin Station, DC 20044) from whom more information can be obtained.

*People & Taxes* has estimated the amount by which property taxes could be reduced if an 8% intangibles tax were instituted (including a low income exemption). Examples are: California's property taxes could be reduced by 11.5%, New York's by 13.8%, Pennsylvania's by 13.3% and Delaware's by 85%.

For an exceptionally clear and useful discussion of tax politics generally and how to affect them, we recommend "Tax Politics: How They Make You Pay and What You Can Do About it" (Pantheon 1976) by Robert Brandon, Jonathan Rowe and Thomas Stanton. Rowe is a former Gazette contributor now on the staff of DC councilmember Marion Barry.

ACROSS the nation state and local governments confronted by fiscal crises are being forced to raise taxes while they cut services. Since the property tax is a major source of revenue for these jurisdictions, citizens in all areas find their greatest lifetime investments — their homes — assessed at higher values and taxed at higher rates, yet protected by fewer police and fire fighters.

Even while legislators and home owners both struggle to balance their respective budgets, over \$32 trillion worth of property goes untaxed by property tax systems in the U.S. This figure represents the value of intangible property in the U.S. — stocks, bonds, savings accounts and the like.

Intangible property currently amounts to four-sevenths of all wealth in the United States. Quite naturally, it is principally the property of the rich. (In fact, the richest 1% of the population owned over 50% of all corporate stock and over 60% of all bonds in 1975.) Intangible property escapes taxation in most states through exemption, exclusion and loopholes devised early in the twentieth century. Inclusion of this important form of wealth in the property tax base could add almost \$8 billion in revenues to state and local governments.

The theory originally justifying the property tax was that an individual's amassed possessions were a suitable and sufficient indication of his or her ability to pay for services rendered by the government. Wealth at that time consisted mainly of real estate and livestock — but there were also some types of intangible property, such as loans or licenses. Under the laws adopted in the early 19th century, all property, including intangible property, was assessed and taxed uniformly. Given the simple composition of wealth at this time, the property tax was particularly easy to administer and accept. With the growth of the corporate form of business and modern credit structures, however, the nature of private wealth changed greatly. Stocks, bonds and savings accounts grew in importance until they became worth far more than physical assets. But property tax administration changed little in response to the new economic realities. Tax administrators tended to rely on physical property rather than on intangible property.

Rather than grapple with the administrative problems associated with this new increasingly important form of wealth, assessors in many state capitals and city halls have simply ignored its existence. By the 1920s, most state and local governments either exempted paper wealth from

the tax base, or made no effort to collect revenues due. Today, the property tax serves primarily as a levy on real estate, and thus in form it still closely resembles the institution developed in rural America. But the resemblance is in form only. The motivating spirit of the tax — in terms of the ability-to-pay principle — has been subverted by the exclusion of intangible types of wealth.

The taxation of intangible wealth along with real property would reduce inequities in the current property tax system and provide local governments with a new source of revenue. The most feasible method of implementing a tax on intangible wealth would be to have each state collect a tax on the income which individuals and fiduciaries (persons who manage the property of others) gain from passive investments in intangible property.

Institution of a low tax rate on the income from intangible property — say 8% — would yield about \$8 billion in new revenues for state and local governments, which is almost \$2 billion more than the amount given to state and local governments in fiscal year 1975 under the entire federal revenue sharing program. This 8% tax on income would produce a lower tax burden upon intangible property than taxing the property itself under typical property

a state tax from their federal returns so that in all probability the actual levy against them could be as low as 4%).

This tax on income from intangible property should not be confused with a general state income tax, nor should an income tax be viewed as an adequate substitute. The issue at stake here is the distinction currently made between tangible and intangible property, and the unreasonable preferential treatment afforded property by its exclusion from the property tax base. The implementation of a state income tax in addition to a conventional property tax would not eradicate this inequity in the treatment of these two classes of property.

A handful of states, including Colorado and Massachusetts, have attempted to eliminate this preferential treatment of intangible property by instituting a dual rate general income tax, which imposes a surtax upon gross income from some forms of intangible property.

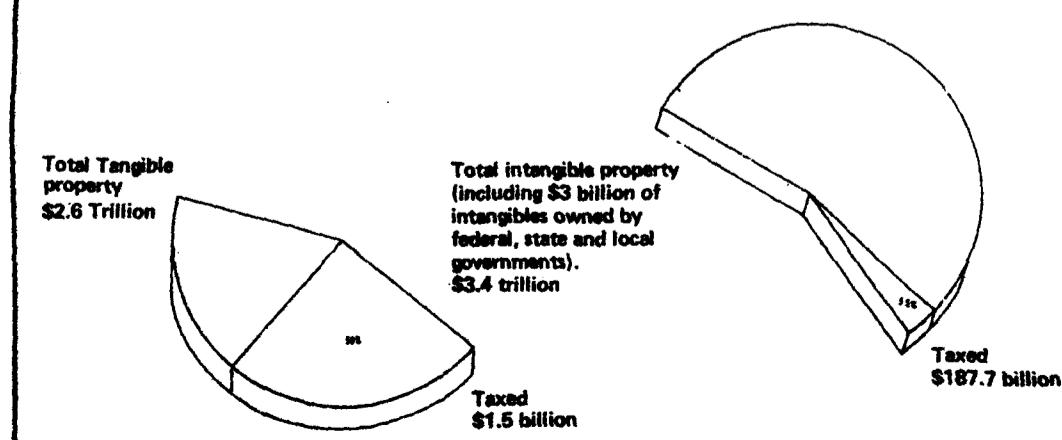
Critics of a tax on intangible property frequently allege that such a tax entails "double taxation." This argument states that since a share of stock stands for the physical assets of a corporation, these assets are already subject to property taxes, thus, to tax the stock is to tax the same property twice. The facts, however, hardly support this contention. Corporate stock stands for much more than just physical assets. Patents, good will, and other intangible assets also contribute to its value. Not all the physical assets of a corporation are subject to property taxation either. A study by Lester Snyder, Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut, shows that at most, only one-fifth of intangible property would be subject to "double taxation." Moreover, double taxation is so common in the American tax system, the charge itself should cause little concern.

Other charges against the intangible property tax prove similarly specious. Some object to such a tax because of administrative difficulties, claiming that intangible property is easily concealed from the tax collector. Although valid at one time, this argument has little merit in today's world of computers. State access to federal income tax data on individual dividend and interest income should discourage major attempts at evasion. Another argument points to the potential plight of "widows and orphans," asserting that the tax would unfairly burden low income persons who depend upon small investments for subsistence. This argument is patently fallacious: the bulk of intangible property is held by the very wealthy, and an exemption to protect small taxpayers could be given. The only "widows and orphans" who would be affected by an intangible property tax would be wealthy ones.

The point made by tax reformers is that the adoption of an intangible property tax would not be so much the imposition of another tax as it would be a new distribution of the burden. By easing the financial woes of local and state governments, the intangible tax, applied in the ideal sense, would impose restraints on raising rates on other types of taxes, chiefly those on real property.

(Rick Baum contributed research to this report.)

## PROPORTIONS OF TAXED AND UNTAXED PROPERTY IN UNITED STATES



# DC EYE

A PARENTS' UNION WAS FORMED last month. It could mean a major change in the educational politics of DC. Up to now parents have had to fight their battles on a school-by-school basis, getting varying degrees of support from school board members and little help from the Congress of PTAs. Shut out of teacher-school system contract talks, ignored in many of their demands, and faced with the erosion of community control, parents may soon have an organization they can turn to that will fight for their children's interests. For more information on the fledgling parents union here, contact Ginnie Johnson at Friendship House, 619 D Street, SE, DC 20003 (547-8880).

YOU CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT how the Post will ever recover from all that press-room damage allegedly caused during the late unpleasantness on 15th Street. The Post Company, parent corporation of the Washington Post, has announced at 44 percent dividend increase for stockholders plus a two-for-one stock split. Third quarter profits were \$3.5 million compared with \$1 million for the same period last year. . . THERE ARE NOW FOUR major parties in DC. The Socialist Workers Party got enough votes in the last election to qualify for regular ballot status.

HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD ON Julius Hobson's highly desirable initiative and referendum bill. But chairman Sterling, we hear, wants to keep the matter bottled up. . . LATEST GIMICK TO BE USED TO ATTRACT RESTORATION SPECULATORS: A real estate agent is suggesting that four or five people who know each other get together and buy up part of a block. That way no one's the first white on the block. . . QUESTION TO DAVE CLARKE: What would be the tax on the speculative sales that have occurred while your speculation tax bill has been kept holed up in committee?

MORE THAN SEVENTY members of Congress live on the Hill. . . CAPITOL HILL NOW meets the first Sunday of the month at the Capitol Hill Hospital Board Room, 2 pm. Info: 543-8525. . . DAVID HUNTER IS A JUSTICE Department lawyer who has just been elected president of the Cooperative Housing Association, newly formed by twelve apartment coops to fight for a better deal for cooperatives. First goal is institutional financing for individual coop apartments. Right now banks and S&Ls won't put up the money. The association welcomes other DC coops to join. You can call Hunter at 739-3849.

ANOTHER NIFTY CATALOG of classes at the Ag Dept's Grad School is available by phone from 447-4419. Everything from Calligraphy to Paralegalism. . . THERE'S LOTS OF TALK BUT FEW ANSWERS about the massive shakeup amongst the Fifteenth Street Press. Our first guess was that it has creeping Maoism and that Ben Bradlee would be out covering fires, but it didn't get that far. Probably just another sign that the managers and not the news people control things over there. . . DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS HAS ANYTHING to do with it, but a flyer from Research Media, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. boasts the Post as one of the users of its Behavior Modification kits. Other Behavior Mod customers include the Shelby County Penal Farm, the West Virginia Commission of Mental Retardation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Bragg and the Container Corporation of America. The kit teaches you how to increase and decrease behavior and create new behavior. Looks like the days of "Front Page" are over.

THE WASHINGTON PLANNING AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION has opened an Old Anacostia Home Repair Information Center, which will provide free home maintenance and rehabilitation workshops to Anacostia residents. . . IF YOU WANT TO BE SAFE ON THE STREETS stay in your car. Auto theft and aggravated assault are the only categories of local crime that have gone down in the past ten years. Overall, there were about 29,000 crimes here in 1966, 53,000 this past year. Meanwhile the number of DC police is up from 3455 to 4400.

ALTHOUGH VOTERS WERE ENTITLED to vote for two at large city council candidates, only one of whom could be a Democrat (Marion Barry), many voters failed to use their second vote. One of the reasons for this was that the word was put out to Democratic precinct workers to tell people to vote for Barry and then stop. Even so, Statehood Party candidate Josephine Butler — despite a low budget, low profile campaign — pulled about half as many votes as Republican Jerry Moore. A more aggressive campaign on the part of Butler and some minimal cooperation from the Democratic machine could have made a big difference. . . JERRY IS ONE OF OUR MORE EXPENSIVE city council members. Not only has he — as a Metro board member — looked the other way as Metro has dug its financial hole, but he has presided over the granting of public land in city alleys to benefit private development interests. Finally neighborhood groups have gotten wise to the great alley giveaway. One alley closing is being fought in the West End, and in AU Park citizens have discovered to their dismay that a seemingly innocuous alley action became a key element in the closing of the Apex Theatre and its proposed replacement by a 77-foot structure on the site. Returns from 1292 questionnaires found 96% in the neighborhood opposed to the development, the density of which was a result of the alley closing. Unfortunately, the alley was closed in 1973 and it's not certain what can be done about it. Moral: There is no such thing as an innocuous alley closing. Question: what the hell is the city giving public land to private developers for anyway?

RALPH FEATHERSTONE isn't the only board of education member in financial trouble as a result of serving the city's schools for next to nothing. Among those feeling the pinch are Julius Hobson Jr. (who says he definitely won't run again), Bette Ann Kane and John Warren. Part of the problem is that board members can't work for the government, which cuts down on employment opportunities. The solution, of course, is for the council and mayor to pay the board members a living wage. . . MAYBE they could get some money out of architects' fees. A school budget official tells the story of the estimate that came in for some architectural drawings for the renovation of two rooms at Roosevelt High: \$60,000. That's \$45,000 to the architect and \$15,000 in "overhead" out of school system funds and into the budget of the General Services Administration.

THERE ARE WORSE HORROR STORIES. DC Citizens for Better Education reports that the proposed renovation of Coolidge High School is estimated at \$19 million. It only cost \$15 million to build the Mormon Temple in Chevy Chase. Eastern High will cost \$22 million to renovate, the Air and Space Museum came in at less than twice that: \$41 million. . . STILL NO FIGURES from the school system on the operating costs for each of its units as ordered by the city council under a resolution sponsored by Julius Hobson. The first report was due last August.

NO ONE SEEMS VERY CONCERNED but the decision by the police to make congressmen subject to arrest for misdemeanors is potentially extremely dangerous. Nixon and LBJ could have had field days harrassing unfriendly solons under such a procedure. . . THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS doesn't understand self-government, but they put out a nice calendar which sells for \$1.50 and is available in room 733 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Conn. Ave., NW (Call 785-2616). . . COMMON CAUSE/DC needs a part time executive director. Send resume to SEARCH Committee, PO Box 19250, DC 20002.

(Please turn to page 17)

DC POWER, a private, non-profit group, wants experienced community organizer to assist in developing programs to help other community groups and the public to better understand utility issues. DC residence required; previous utility background not required. \$500-\$600 per month. 667-6461.



## The last of the big ones?

JOHN LOHR

(JOHN LOHR is an electrical engineer who has spent much of the past two years in the Antarctic on a National Science Foundation-sponsored expedition.)

**ANTARCTICA:** The largest animal that ever lived on this planet is nearing extinction.

Known scientifically as Balaenoptera Musculus, it is larger than four of the largest dinosaurs together or a herd of 20 African elephants. Its common name is Blue Whale, and man is its only natural enemy.

Little is being done to forestall this tragedy; in fact, at this point, probably little can be done.

Today the remaining blues are widely

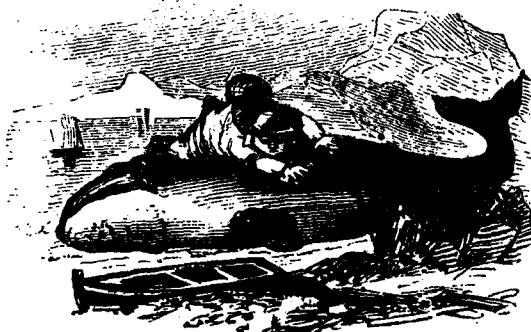
scattered and encounters between bulls and cows are rare. Scientists believe they are mute, in contrast to some species of whales that can communicate over distances as great as 3,000 miles.

The crewmembers of the American research vessel Hero spotted one lone blue whale near the South Shetlands in 1972, probably the very last in the area that was once their favorite habitat.

I have been working in the Antarctic waters for well over a year aboard the Hero, perhaps the only ship in the world available for the type of research necessary to save the blue whale. During a recent 7,000-mile voyage through the southern Pacific, the crew of the Hero was asked by the Smithsonian Institution to take a census of the large whales in the area and to tag as many as possible.

We were unable to tag even one whale and we could count the number sighted on our fingers and toes.

Little is actually known about the blues. Such things as their migration routes and their mating grounds remain a mystery. So few specimens remain that most experts won't venture to estimate their numbers.



Their natural feeding grounds are the enormous krill schools around the Antarctic continent. This fact makes research both costly and difficult, for the waters are stormy and strewn with giant icebergs.

We do know that the blue whale is a classic case of adaptation of an air-breathing mammal to a water environment. With the perfect hydrodynamic shape and marvelously adapted teeth, or baleen, such a gigantic creature could support its massive weight only in the water.

A baby blue may weigh as much as 12 tons at birth. Nourished completed by its mother's milk, the baby may increase hundreds of pounds per day. Hundreds of gal-

(Please turn to page 17)

# Getting along

A UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA medical researcher says that regular doses of Vitamin E seem to slow down the aging process.

Doctor Denham Harman of Nebraska's School of Medicine has told the 6th annual meeting of the American Aging Association that test animals given Vitamin E lived 30 percent longer than did similar animals, fed identical diets, but without the vitamin.

Doctor Harman says his studies indicate that Vitamin E helps preserve the immune systems of the body, systems which normally decline with age.

THE National Aeronautics and Space Administration has prepared a feasibility study which concludes that Mars could be turned into a liveable retreat, complete with a breathable atmosphere and running water.

The Chicago Tribune reports that one of the project's scientists, Doctor Richard Young, believes the effort to re-engineer Mars could begin before the end of this century.

Doctor Young says that NASA feasibility reports show that Mars could be settled by humans after using satellites to spray charcoal powder on the cold polar caps of the planet. Young explains that this would cause the polar caps to melt, raising the Martian temperature, creating rivers and lakes and producing a thin earth-like atmosphere.

According to the NASA study, the correct kind of scientific effort — costing in the trillions of dollars — could result in settlers from Earth eventually living and working on the Martian surface in shirtsleeves.

In the meantime, Cornell astronomer Doctor Carl Sagan is warning about attempts by humans to change Mars. Sagan says that Mars may contain low forms of life and — if so — we shouldn't tamper with it. Says Sagan: "If there are microbes there, Mars belongs to them."

AMERICANS, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, are abandoning the city life in droves.

A new study by the Rand Corporation has found that there has been an abrupt reversal in the long-established trend toward urbanization, with most transient Americans moving from the city to the countryside rather than vice versa.

The Rand study found what it calls "unmistakable" signs of population growth in every region of the country.

It said that each year between 1970 and 1975, for every 100 persons who moved to metropolitan areas, 131 moved out.

MEDICAL researchers in England claim to have perfected an anti-smoking "nicotine gum" that works.

The chewing gum, containing anywhere from two to eight times the amount of nicotine found in a typical cigarette, has been developed to help people quit smoking.

When hit by a "nicotine fit," ex-smokers simply pop a stick of the gum into their mouths. Maudley Hospital in London reports that 70 percent of all smokers who tested the gum stopped smoking during a lengthy trial period, and that 26 percent were still not smoking one year later.

JOGGING around the block may be better for your mental health than long sessions on the psychiatrist's couch.

University of Wisconsin psychiatrist Dr. John Greist says a recent study of patients has found that those who

participated in a 10 week running program recovered from depression faster than those who spent time on the couch.

According to Greist, most of the jogging students recovered from their depressed states within the first three weeks, and have retained their recoveries since January. Others who spent their time, instead, talking to analysts, did not fare as well, Greist says.

The doctor suggests that many people get depressed simply because they don't get enough exercise . . . and their systems get out of whack.

THE U.S. Census Bureau says that there are so many communes that it will be forced to include them in a new category in its next population survey.

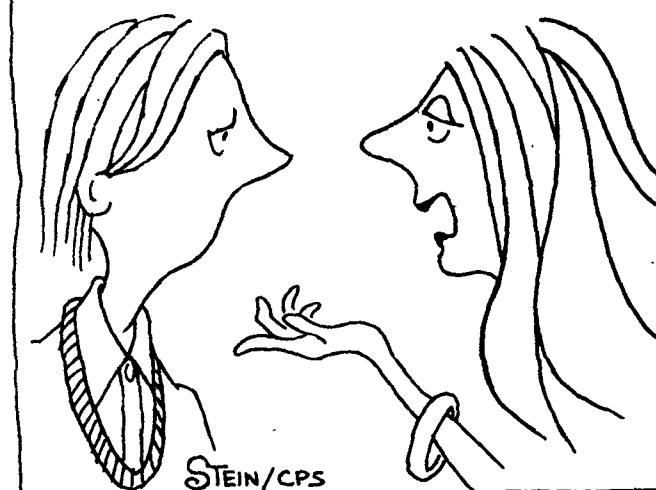
A REPORT drafted by the government's principal drug research agency is recommending that a nationwide network of clinics be established to distribute heroin to addicts.

The report, containing the tentative suggestion, was issued last month by the government's National Institute on Drug Abuse, after 15 months of research by government drug experts and scientists. It predicts the legalizing of heroin would reduce crime.

The report states that "such a program would dramatically lower prices of heroin, make heroin more readily and reliably available, and reduce the chances of stigmatizing users," while limiting the channels through which it is available.

The long-term effects of the program, the report said, would be to remove addicts from criminal careers, thus reducing the numbers of crimes of violence.

I MEAN, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS SO EXPRESSIVE, YOU KNOW? SO, I MEAN, VITAL, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



## How big should a school be?

As student populations decline and city budgets tighten, schools are being closed in the name of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Often, it is the small school that is the target of economy moves. But is this false economy? Are the schools being closed the ones that teach best? DC Citizens for Better Public Education recently published a study of school size. Some excerpts follow. The full report can be obtained from DCCBPE, 95 M St. SW, DC 20024.

An architect from the firm which designed one of the largest schools built in the District of Columbia speaks: "I look at that school and wonder what on earth it can be used for when there are no children to fill it. I can't really think of one thing."

An assistant principal from a 4000 student Fairfax County Junior-Senior High School says, "I'd never let my own kids come here. We get in little seventh graders and six months later they've been turned into high school seniors."

The principal of the same school rhapsodizes: "There are a fantastic number of courses we can offer the kids because of the size. Every kind of sport you can imagine. We even have our own baton twirling corps."

An architect sputters: "A purple door—that's what a kid is supposed to relate to. He goes to a school that has twenty learning centers spread out over three floors, and he goes in the purple door and up the purple stairs into the purple learning center and he's supposed to feel that this is HIS school."

Another architect explains: "There is really no problem with the large school. You can have an elementary school for 1200 children and keep them administratively separate, divided into three

separate schools of 400 students, each with its own principal, and lunchroom. The kids are able to handle it."

An activist parent from Anacostia sees it this way: "They make it so big, you don't know anybody, you don't know who to go to if you have a problem, you can't keep track of anything, you don't know the other parents in your school."

A student participant in a design conference at Columbia, Md.: "The school is too big. Just during lunch time the bells ring about 20 times. They ring to start first lunch, to stop 3rd period, to start 4th period, to end 1st lunch, to start 2nd lunch. It'll drive you crazy."

Child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim writes: "School is the child's first experience with an institution created by society just to serve him so that he, in turn, will serve society. More than anything else it will shape his view of society and his behavior within it. If he remains anonymous there, in his first encounter with the wider world, he will come to expect that this is how his life in society will unfold. ... Our big schools, by their very size, rule out any chance for intimacy, defy the human dimension. No school should serve more than some three to five hundred youngsters. Only an educational factory serves several thousand."

The chief arguments for the large school are that (1) it is possible to offer a far greater variety of courses and extra-curricular activities in the large school, and (2) that the large school is more cost efficient—that the public gets more for its dollar from the large school.

Examples of both of these arguments can be found in the Report of the D.C. Task Force on Educational Parks, which was produced in June, 1969. Educational parks were a popular idea during the 1960s when they were seen as a solution to both burgeoning school enrollments and to providing for racially integrated education. The Task Force recommended an educational complex of 20,000 children, from kindergarten to high school age. An alternative suggestion was for a complex of 14,000 to 16,000 junior high and senior high students.

The Task Force stated that such large numbers of children would allow for a vastly expanded curriculum. More of everything could be offered. The foreign language program, for example, might benefit. The Task Force said:

"The difficulties of justifying, recruiting and holding trained personnel and of purchasing expensive laboratory and other equipment will not easily be resolved so long as the number of potential enrollees ... remains small ... Indeed, a language program offering ten, twelve, or fourteen languages rather than three, four or five is feasible. In a major international center such as Washington, this is most desirable."

The Task Force argued also that larger student enrollments would enable the school system to employ both highly specialized staff and provide facilities that would not be practical otherwise. The public schools' Division of Planning, Innovation and Research developed some fascinating projections regarding the numbers of students required to justify certain special facilities and teachers. These figures represented the number of students in a school that would result in "full utilization" of a facility or teacher. The smaller the number of students who might theoretically be interested in a course or an activity, the larger the student body required to justify it.

For example, the planning office estimated that 100% of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children would use a wading pool. Based on that assumption, a student body of 116 pre-K and K children would generate full utilization. 1556 pupils would produce enough interested students to justify a TV lab or a math workshop; a group of 289 students would produce enough interest for an oceanographic lab, while the report states that 9774 would be required to justify general courses in a planetarium and 15,568 students to get enough interest to offer specialized planetarium courses. The numbers of students required to completely utilize various special teachers is thought provoking. The Task Force believed that with 248 students, a school would find enough students for a teacher of Russian; a pool of 745 would be required to produce enough candidates for Chinese; while with 3320 students, the school could justify hiring a teacher of Middle English.

One form of the cost effectiveness argument was used by the Montgomery County Small Schools Task Force in a report issued in 1973. The Task Force took figures for the cost of professional staff, other staff, utilities and maintenance, pupil services and supplies, and central and area office support in order to arrive at per pupil costs for certain sizes of elementary schools. For a 200 pupil school, the figure was \$1,192 per student; for a 400 pupil school, the cost was \$945 per student. The 400 pupil school is more "cost effective" than the 200 pupil school.

A school does not, however, multiply its savings by multiplying its students. The percentage of saving diminishes sharply as the school is increased in capacity. In Montgomery County, though a 400 pupil school represented a savings of \$247 per pupil over the smaller school, the difference between educating a child in a 600 pupil building and an 800 pupil building meant a saving of only fifty dollars. A California

study, done in 1961, showed even smaller savings. The state could save \$280 per pupil by doubling enrollment from 100 to 200 students. But educating a child in a 3000 student school, rather than a 600 student school meant savings of only \$13 per pupil. A 1959 study by the New York State Board of Education concluded that both large and small schools were relatively expensive when compared to schools with around 700 pupils.

There have been numerous studies attempting to compare the success of graduates from large and small high schools in getting into, and staying in, college.

Such studies were particularly popular during the late 1950s and through the 1960s, when a successful college career was widely believed to assure success in getting a job. Such optimism is not current in the 1970s, when too many of us know graduates with advanced degrees who are unable to find employment, but the result of the research remains interesting.

Most of such studies focused either on the graduates of a single state's high schools, including rural schools, or on a freshman class in a particular college. Their results therefore have limited value. Many studies found no significant variation in college performance between graduates of large and small schools. Several concluded that being part of a high school graduating class of no less than 100 was helpful both in staying in college and achieving high grades. A national study of doctoral candidates concluded that a high school with a graduating class of 100 was essential to adequate performance in a doctoral program in science. These studies were done in the early sixties, following the publication of James Conant's *American High School Today*, which had criticized "small" high schools and made the recommendation of at least 100 students in a graduating class. A graduating class of 100 would mean a high school of fewer than 500 students, very small indeed by comparison with today's high schools of 2000 to 4000 students. To muddy the waters still further, one study of Wisconsin college freshmen done in 1969 concluded that students from graduating classes of from one to twenty-five pupils had the greatest chance of staying in college.

Teachers in large schools perceived their relationship with the community and the principal as impersonal and ineffective. When a teacher believes she is expected to fit into the system, rather than to change it, when she believes that she has no power to influence what goes on in the school, she is, according to the Michigan researchers, likely to experience a sense of alienation from the school. Her sense of powerlessness and unimportance is very similar to that of the students in a large school described by Barker and Gump and by the Johns Hopkins study on violence. When a teacher feels thus alienated she is both unable and unwilling to participate in change. In such a situation it is obvious that the children lose out.

Teachers aged 30 to 50 were most likely to feel alienation and those with M.A.'s were found to feel more powerless than those with B.A.'s. The larger the school, the greater were the number of alienated, and thus frustrated and unchanging, teachers. The study found that in schools with 50 or more teachers, 44 percent of the teachers experienced these feelings of alienation and powerlessness.

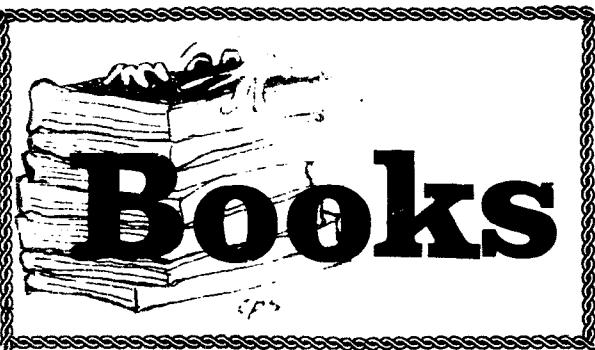
TABLE 1  
ENROLLMENT IN SELECTED PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE  
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA—1976

School	Grades Served	Enrollment
St. Anselm's Abbey	7-12	150
Beauvoir	pre-K thru 3	350
Burgundy Farms	K-8	216
Congressional	pre-K thru 12	550
Cromwell Academy	8-12	42
Edmund Burke	7-12	106
Georgetown Day	pre-K thru 8	265
Green Acres	pre-K thru 8	265
Holton-Arms	3-12	565
Mater Dei	1-8	206
National Cathedral	4-12	500
Potomac	pre-K thru 9	541
St. Alban's	4-12	519
Sidwell Friends	K-12	976
Stone Ridge	K-12	550

Table 1 gives the 1976 enrollments for a number of local private schools. These schools have varying criteria for admission, ranging from evidence of high scholastic potential or performance to ability to pay a high tuition fee. Most of them have waiting lists, so their size is a matter of choice rather than lack of market demand. Schools we contacted expressed the desire to remain small; one which had added 25 students to its high school enrollment over the past several years feared it might have expanded too much. One headmaster interviewed expressed what appeared to be a general reservation on the part of private school administrators. "Every time you add a student, you add at least one parent, and usually you add two. With a student body of around 500 you're actually talking about dealing with between 1200 and 1400 people. If we got any larger than (the present enrollment) I'm afraid we'd lose some of our concern for the individual student. There are problems of management and control in the larger schools and there is a real problem in keeping in close contact with the faculty." He added, somewhat wryly, that in a private school, the administration is very accountable to the parents. "We expect to be and they expect us to be. They're on the phone and we want and expect to be answerable to them. I'd have a hard time handling a larger number of parents than I now have."

Parents who enroll their children in such schools are conscious of this immediate accountability. One parent, who had chosen to place her daughter in a small, private school, where the curriculum was limited in comparison to the highly rated and quite large public school, was well aware of what her tuition was buying. "(High school X) is a machine. It is impossible to find out anything, or to get a straight answer to a question. Here, I can call Mr. L if I have a problem and I get action instead of a lot of talk."





Nicholas A. Ashford, Crisis in The Workplace: Occupational Disease and Injury "A Report to the Ford Foundation," (Cambridge, Mass., M.I.T. Press, 1976).

IRVING RICHTER

WHEN Upton Sinclair wrote his epic novel, The Jungle, there was no federal regulation of food processing and unions barely had a toe-hold in meat packing or other mass production industries. The searchlight Sinclair turned on the filth and disease in packing houses was a major factor in passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. But despite Sinclair's own focusing on their horrible job conditions and their need for union protection, the mass of packinghouse workers waited another generation before they could organize under the CIO banner.

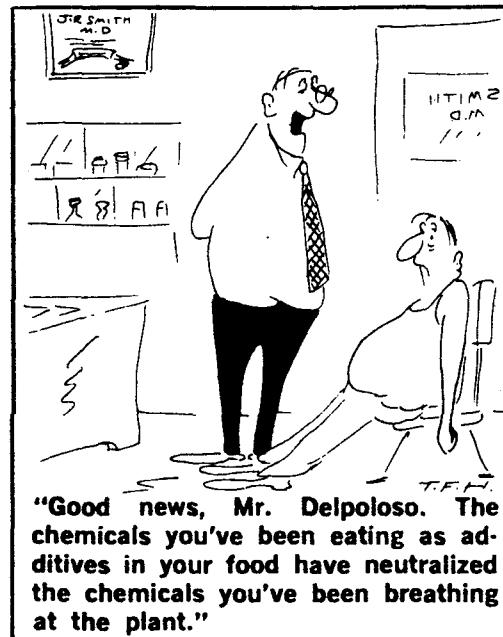
Paradoxically, the rise of the unions may be one significant factor in the present vacuum that complicates the problem of dealing with occupational disease at the workplace. Today most union leaders are keenly alert to traditional injuries and accidents, joining company safety experts and industrial insurance companies in campaigns to alert workers to accident hazards. Yet to a large extent such programs are rather irrelevant for the present occupational disease "crisis." Perhaps partly as a result of this book, and subsequent dramatic public revelations, some unions have shown awareness of the present vacuum. Last July, the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO pointed to the growing dangers "of diseases and possible genetic change" from "toxic dust, fumes, vapors, mists, gases and noise...the impact of the micro-chemical environment" at the workplace.

Ashford's 600-page, scholarly work, while hardly likely by itself to arouse the general public as did Sinclair's novel, provides useful data on and insight into the complex and growing "crisis" at workplaces and the institutional obstacles that must be overcome. The blocks are placed not only by employers but by some important unions, and even by the regulators, notably the United States Labor Department. Union leaders in basic industry often have stood at the side of the employers on this issue, fearing that the costly changes required to safeguard workers might cause shutdowns of plants. The author notes that few unions have made their members' exposure to toxic substances a central subject for collective bargaining. In addition, much of the present danger — such as the neurological disease and degeneration of the liver that recently surfaced at the Virginia chemical plant making Kepone — occurs at unorganized enterprises.

Under existing law, the Labor Department is assigned the primary role in occupational health. A series of factors, however, including political opposition as

well as competing jurisdictions of other agencies in Washington, have limited the department's effectiveness. Such ultra-conservative groups as the John Birch Society and the American Conservative Union campaigned against the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act and continue to view OSHA as a special target. (This act, sponsored among others by the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and signed by President Nixon while he still enjoyed a honeymoon with this moderate sector of labor, was the first national legislation outside the field of mining on occupational health and safety. Formerly occupational health legislation was largely limited to state measures.)

The Labor Department has issued few standards for OSHA, even where government advisory committees have recommended specific controls as in the long-standing dispute over cancer-causing elements in the production of coke in steel mills. Indeed, Secretary of Labor John Dunlop, shortly before he tendered his resignation to President Ford, proposed a policy shift that would have reduced the government role in writing regulations and in the enforcement of the act, in favor of a greater role



CLGA Voice

for "the parties" in collective bargaining. His proposal was immediately followed by adjournment of a previously scheduled hearing on cancer-causing fumes affecting thousands of coke workers — ostensibly to give the companies and the union in the steel industry a chance to negotiate over the matter.

The potential cost to unorganized workers in dangerous occupations from such a retreat by the government is obvious. But this was widely seen also as a concession to cost-conscious employers of organized workers who might negotiate with their union counterparts less rigid standards than those proposed by the experts on the advisory committees.

Yet it would be a mistake to consider the Labor Department's extreme hesitancy as solely a sop to employers. In defining the Labor Department's philosophy, John Dunlop, one of the country's most eminent labor economists, was addressing himself to what he called "The Limits of Legal Compulsion." Dunlop articulated the growing belief among conservative economists that there should be a general reduction in the federal government's involvement in the economy. Addressing the White House staff in December 1975, he discussed a broad range of new and old federal programs, and quoted Professor Wilson, his famous political science colleague at Harvard:

*'Political inertia is not easily overcome, and when it is overcome, it is often at the price of exaggerating the virtue of those who are to benefit (a defrauded debtor, a sick industry) or the wickedness of those who are to bear the burden (a smoke-belching car, a polluting factory, a grasping creditor).'*

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Steel Labor

"The regulatory process," Dunlop added, "encourages conflict" and "lessens incentives for private accommodations of conflicting viewpoints."

William Usery, the ex-Machinists' Union leader and Dunlop's successor as Secretary of Labor, followed such an excessively cautious policy on occupational diseases that George Meany hinted that Usery was delaying the publication of a number of OSHA standards until after the 1976 election.

The administration's delaying tactics on occupational health seem to have encouraged those employers who are not ready to accept a broadened definition of health and safety at the workplace. Industry in general claims that their own safety directors deal with workplace occupational health hazards. Ashford, considering this claim, notes that while company-employed professional safety engineers believe that health is encompassed in the term safety, along with accident and injury, their emphasis remains on accident prevention. The basic explanation for this lag is that health hazards are not fully recognized by either insurance companies or employers. The safety professional's concern with noise for example, "is more with the effects of noise on hearing than with its role as a stressor and co-causative factor of disease."

Causative factors in the field of industrial health are indeed complex. The typical health hazard, Ashford writes, is "slow, irreversible, and complicated by non-occupational factors, including toxic and carcinogenic chemicals and dusts, often in combination with noise, heat and other forms of stress." Still, we do know that even a brief exposure to a carcinogen may cause a tumor or death. The safety experts, the plant manager, the union leadership, the company president and the insurer are all fully alert to imminent danger from such things as unguarded blades and saws, but may overlook the exposure to a carcinogen. Yet, as Ashford observes, "the probability of dying from a cancer may be just as high as having an accident." Cancer is 80-90% environmentally caused, and it is not known how much of it is occupationally related. What we do know is that thousands of occupationally related deaths and diseases escape the attention of the safety inspectorate and do not appear in government statistics on accidents and injuries. Yet, as Ashford demonstrates, the total of deaths from such diseases exceeds deaths from reported accidents and injuries.

Even heart disease is "only 25% explained" by known factors," and an unknown "but quite possibly substantial proportion of heart disease risk that is presently

(Please turn to page 18)

## CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS: 10¢ a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2) DC 20009

THE GOODFELLOW REVIEW OF CRAFTS. \$6 for 12 issues. Write for free copy. Box 4520, Berkeley, Calif. 94704 JA

HOW CAN YOU HELP your children understand some of the meaning of Christmas, beneath all the glitter and commercialism? One way is to attend the short opera, Amahl and the Night Visitors, to be presented by the First Congregational Church Players on Dec. 12 and 19, at 7:30 pm. The music, the costumes, and the setting will enthrall the pre-teen set. The Church is diagonally across from Woodies at 10th and G Streets, NW. Donation, \$2. Everyone welcome.

## Neighborhoods - city & suburb

Charles J. Mouratides

Perched on the seat of a small plane slowly rising over a deserted Midway airport on Chicago's South Side, you cannot help but wonder what will become of the vast land under your flying machine. These are all Chicago neighborhoods. Yet, in many ways, they look just like many of the working class suburbs that blossomed after the westward trail was cut by those who used to live in many Chicago neighborhoods.

What does a former Marquette Park homeowner accomplish by moving to the suburb of Burbank? Certainly not many of the much proclaimed stereotyped advantages of suburban living.

Charles J. Mouratides is senior editor for Lerner Newspapers; a chain of 41 suburban and community newspapers on Chicago's North Side and northern and western suburbs. This article appeared originally in the Alliance for Neighborhood Government newsletter.

He used to live in a single-family home, on a street lined with trees, perhaps half-a-mile from a large park and within walking distance of a shopping strip that provided all the shopping convenience of a suburban shopping mall.

What has he got where he is now, at his new suburban address? Streets without sidewalks or lights, where a special assessment is about to throw another blow at his pocketbook. A basement that floods every time a couple of inches of rain come down too close to each other. And a shopping plaza he can only reach by car. In the summer, he may have a water shortage that will affect not only his lawn, but his cooking as well. This is the case with many working class whites who have moved from a city neighborhood to a suburb.

May I submit, then, that the reason the former Marquette Park owner has moved out of his neighborhood is not for any of the mythical values of the good life attributed to suburban living? The real reason is Power--the feeling that he can affect his own destiny and the benefits resulting from the exercise of that power.

He has left an area where he has practically no relationship with the city council, where the city leadership would have remained distant all his

lifetime. He now lives in an area where he can place his name on the suburban City Council's agenda, if he calls the city clerk a couple of days before the Council's meeting.

He has left a school system of half-a-million students to enter a school district with three or four thousand students.

He has an elected school board he can talk to by simply showing up at the regular meeting instead of a system run by a group that has only seen his neighborhood on Chicago's map.

In his new town, he can speak out at the zoning board meetings which may eventually decide the building that will go up next door to him.

That is Power--the right, the ability or capacity to exercise control.

I believe that people will stay in the neighborhoods only if we give them power over community affairs. To be sure, the upper class may still abandon neighborhoods for newer and more modern housing (not necessarily in the suburbs but in other neighborhoods). But it was never the upper class that made up the majority of these Chicago neighborhoods. The ethnics, persons with similar religious affiliations, the worker, are the residents of the neighborhoods. And they remain in their neighborhoods because they are attached to them for a variety of reasons, many of which you undoubtedly have experienced yourselves.

Just the other day, I came across an interesting observation which illustrates the persistence of some families to remain in certain neighborhoods despite the economic ability to move: in 1971, more than a quarter of a million families with incomes in excess of \$15,000 a year lived in the "poverty areas" of 51 of the largest cities.

Although I have no way of knowing whether that quarter-million lived in "neighborhoods," the figures indicate that many Americans have their own set of values for determining what constitutes a desirable living location.

Now, the ethnics and the working class are also abandoning the city as fast as they can, and the neighborhoods are breaking down because the institutions which residents had expected would provide them with the means to control their lives have failed them.

For example, the political structure has failed to provide any semblance of power to the neighborhoods except in a few, isolated cases. The centralization which has been pushed upon the neighborhoods demonstrates that the latter have been viewed only as the means to preserve power to manipulate the community from without.

Thus, I submit, in order to preserve our neighborhoods, we must give them some of the features which suburban communities find so attractive.

We must break down the Chicago school system to many independent community school districts. If a suburb of 10,000 people can have its own two or three grade and high school districts, so can a city community of 30,000 persons. In addition, the city communities can do it in a more efficient manner through the centralization and computerization of certain departments such as purchasing.

Another change along the same lines would be the creation of local zoning boards which would act much like their suburban models. In the suburbs, final authority rests with the village board or the city council. In the case of the neighborhoods, of course, the Chicago City Council.

To summarize, I believe that in order to survive and prosper, city neighborhoods must be given the real tools of power. I am aware of some of the problems that may arise, particularly in the area of segregation. However, I think they can be handled under existing laws. At least, I do not see how things can be any worse off than they are now.



A CONFERENCE on local tax reform is being set up for January. For info write Jonathan Rowe c/o National Conference Center, 1901 Que NW, DC 20009.

THESE TIMES, a new left weekly, should be out soon. It promises "accurate coverage of political movements for social change throughout society, reviews of popular culture, and analyses of issues from a democratic socialist perspective." Subscriptions are \$15 a year available from These Times, 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill, 60622.

## City lines

ANTI-REDLINING efforts may not have the effect their advocates hope. There are signs that the mortgage money freed for inner city development will wind up primarily in the hands of real estate speculators restoring houses after kicking out the low and moderate income tenants.

DEVELOPER INTERESTS are talking up the idea of shifting property taxation away from improvements and onto the land. The appeal of this approach from the point of view of a city is that it would provide an incentive to owners to improve property now vacant or deteriorating. But there are serious problems:

- Low and moderate rent property in areas of high land values would be threatened.
- Low density homes and shops would be torn down to make way for highrises.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS INTERESTED in energy conservation should keep their eye on the flywheel. Flywheels are now being used to store electrical energy that would otherwise be wasted. For example, one firm testing a flywheel arrangement for subway cars under a federal grant claims that a car equipped with the rig could have enough energy stored to let it move to the next station in the event of a power outage. Total energy consumption could be cut 30%.

ONE REASON bus systems are deficit-ridden is because cities are reluctant to give buses priority over cars. Although there are some experiments with exclusive bus lanes, cities are still not taking advantage of existing technology that permits bus driver control over traffic signals.

Under such a system, the driver turns the light green just long enough for the bus to cross.

An even cheaper way to speed up buses -- a crucial goal since more than three-quarters of a buses operating cost is in the driver's time -- is to equip them with stop lights, like school buses, that could be used to halt traffic and permit buses to turn or pull out from the curb on a priority basis.

# NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

A U.S. GOVERNMENT sponsored study says that one of the nation's toughest drug laws has flopped.

Three years ago, New York state's "get tough" law took effect with much fanfare. Now, according to the new study, the law hasn't worked at all after costing \$55 million to be administered.

According to the report, the new law has not only failed to have any effect on hard drug trafficking, it may have made things worse.

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, quoting from the federal study, says that the number of hard drug offenders sentenced to prison has actually declined, and that the speed with which cases are processed has not improved at all.

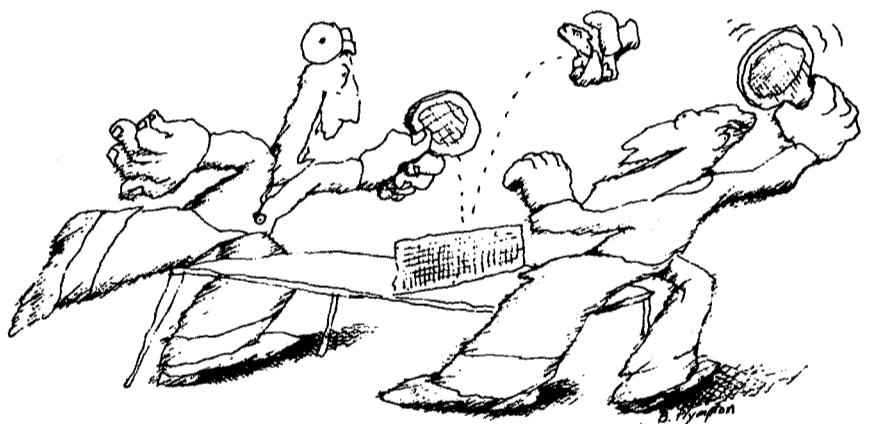
THE Justice Department has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to permit undercover police informers, in some instances, to sit in on confidential discussions between federal defendants and their attorneys.

U.S. courts have consistently ruled that discussions between a lawyer and a client are privileged, and that their privacy is specifically protected under the U.S. Constitution.

However, in a controversial brief filed with the high court, U.S. Solicitor General Robert Bork argued for a change in the law: Bork stated that it is often more important for a government informer to keep his or her "cover," even if it includes posing as a co-defendant and participating in sensitive defense discussions with attorneys.

Bork's brief was filed in a South Carolina case in which a lower court reversed the conviction of a draft protester after it was discovered that undercover police had participated in private defense discussions.

Bork insisted that current interpretations of the law give defendants what he called a "fail-safe method of detecting informants." He argued that a suspected undercover informant could be invited to a defense meeting, and if the informant turned the invitation down or failed to show up for the meeting, the "cover" would be blown.



A FORMER intelligence specialist for the C.I.A. says there exists a secret intelligence-gathering network — linking more than 225 U.S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies — that operates completely independently of all government control.

George O'Toole, in a copyrighted article in *Penthouse Magazine*, identifies this secret network as the "Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit" — or the L.E.I.U.

The L.E.I.U. received a brief flurry of publicity last year when the Houston Police Department withdrew from the organization after criticizing its secret procedures. Since then, however, virtually nothing has appeared in print about the nationwide unit.

O'Toole reports that the unit was set up clandestinely in 1957 by police departments which believed the F.B.I. was not cracking down hard enough on organized crime. He alleges that its members have expanded their nationwide surveillance and dossier system to include information on political activists and "known terrorists."

O'Toole says that because the L.E.I.U. is a private rather than government organization, its files are immune to Freedom of Information Act requests from citizens.

According to O'Toole, dossiers on individual "suspects", compiled by hundreds of police departments, are assembled on five-by-eight-inch cards along with the suspects' photographs in a special file. The information in that file, which is maintained by the California division of Law Enforcement, is reportedly made available to all other L.E.I.U. members on request.

O'Toole adds that the C.I.A. appears to have direct access to all L.E.I.U. dossiers on Americans through the Fairfax, Virginia, Police Department, which is a member of the unit.

## POWER ON THE POTOMAC DIVISION OF INTRANSIGENCE

THE minute a new president is elected, everybody asks the same question: There will be a big change in the Washington social scene now, won't there?

The answer to that is no. There will only be a change in the VIP personalities — so you can forget all that talk about grits and chittlins becoming the fashionable fare.

The outstanding difference will be in the lives of Jimmy and Roslyn Carter and the people who come here with them, not vice versa.

For presidents come and go but official Washington goes on forever and the script for it has already been written. A new administration has about the same social effect on this city as a change of leading actors in a Kennedy Center play. The plot's the same, the setting's the same, even the cast of characters is virtually the same. Only the people playing the star roles are different.

— Betty Beale, *Washington Star*

THE National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws says that the election last month of Jimmy Carter has vastly improved the chances for marijuana being decriminalized at the federal level in the US next year.

Carter, early in his campaign, took a stand in favor of decriminalizing pot.

Legislation has been sponsored by both houses of Congress for marijuana decriminalization, but so far the measures have remained bottled up in committee, partly because of opposition to the proposed laws from the Ford Administration.

A CAREER military sergeant, who was placed in a psychiatric ward three years ago after demanding the court martial of the then-President Richard Nixon, has been turned down in his attempts to sue the military and Nixon.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver last week rejected the appeal of Retired Air Force Sergeant Grant Schulke, who was forced to undergo psychiatric examination in 1973 after he publicly suggested Nixon should be court martialed for Watergate-related crimes.

Schulke, at the time, was a 23-year veteran of the Air Force who had no history of psychiatric troubles. His troubles began, however, when he discussed with an Air Force legal officer the possibility of bringing charges of treason and obstruction of justice against Nixon in his position as Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Shortly after Schulke suggested the court martial, he was whisked away in secret to an Army psychiatric ward at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, and later, after his family protested, to a remote Texas Air Force Base.

Schulke's suit against Nixon and military commanders claims he was placed in a mental ward for political reasons and not because of his mental health.

The appeals court, however, rejected his suit, claiming the court had no reason in intervening in the military's internal affairs.

A FEDERAL government-sponsored study of the death rate among atomic power plant workers concludes that nuclear plant workers are dying of cancer at higher rates than other workers.

The 12-year study, financed by \$5.2 million in government grants, was based on the death certificates of more than 3,800 atomic workers who died between 1944 and 1972.

If the findings are accurate, it would indicate that the government's permissible levels of radiation in nuclear plants are too high because all of the workers studied received less than the permissible levels of exposure during their lifetimes.

NFTRW is compiled from our own sources and from Zodiac News Service, Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, Community Press Features, and the Alternative Press Syndicate.



## Looking back

This train station with its 70 foot tower once stood at New Jersey Ave. and C St. NW. It was built by the B&O Railroad in 1852 when steam locomotives were first allowed in the city. From 1835 to 1852, trains from the north had to stop at the city limits and change from steam to horse power for the trip to sheds at 2nd & Penna. Ave. A second train station, the Baltimore & Potomac, at 6th & B NW (where the National Gallery now stands) opened in 1873. Both were replaced by Union Station in 1907. This late 19th century undated photograph is from the Library of Congress — KATHY SMITH

### CITY COMMENT CONTINUED

on the rally Yeldell had called to defend himself against proliferating charges of nepotism and "cronyism." More than a thousand people had turned out to thank him. And Walter Washington had asked his old crony Julian Dugas to investigate the whole business.

We have followed Yeldell's career with interest ever since he parlayed a project at the LBJ White House for his employer, IBM, into a seat on the appointed council. This amounted to one of the more successful service calls in the annals of American industry.

We knew him then as "Joe Who?" Now he's "Joe Did What?" and the Star has been doing a fine job of covering his activities. Still, we confess that we always greet with mixed feelings the demise of a public official on such grounds as nepotism.

The truth is that the main problems of the Department of Human Resources have nothing to do with Joe Yeldell's relatives. They may even have less to do with Joe Yeldell than we think. DHR is simply too big and too much an artificial conglomeration of specialized services, which, while bearing some relationship to each other and requiring some intercourse, can not be made more productive by the simple expedient of having them share a common name. It is one of the myths of the sixties (which Jimmy Carter, unfortunately, seems intent upon perpetuating) that accentuating the similar qualities of governmental activities by putting them under the same department will result in efficiency.

There are a number of reasons that this doesn't work. One is that, despite the common qualities, important differences remain. The person who is qualified to administer DC General is not necessarily the best person to run a food stamp program. The tendency, following the creation of a superagency such as DHR, is to put it in the hands of someone who has either generalized political or management skills but who knows little about running either a hospital or a food stamp center. One of the roles of this person is to create the illusion that food stamp programs and hospitals are really the same thing, thereby justifying his own employment.

Secondly, the task of holding this diverse and unnatural coalition of services together requires a massive increase in staff at the upper levels. These people are essentially engaged in the coordination of disparate things not because they intrinsically need such intensive coordination but because they share the same budget and the same management. The merger itself creates a major portion of the need for coordination.

This is why every consolidation inevitably produces more expensive and larger government. If Jimmy Carter really wanted to reduce the size of government he would force existing agencies to subdivide. But this would cause massive layoffs of coordinators, an increasingly significant segment of governmental workers.

Thirdly, on the average small agencies are more efficient than large ones. A small agency is always short on resources and has a built-in incentive to make the dollar go further. It is harder to find places to hide waste in a small agency. There is, for example, relatively little waste in such departments as the libraries or recreation.

Today we spend more to administer the Department of Human Resources than we did on welfare less than a decade ago. And it doesn't work.

Joe Yeldell should have found that out and told us. That is the real reason he should have been fired. Because he was smart enough to see the disaster that DHR had become and kept it from us. Not because he put family and friends on the payroll but because he let hundreds of bureaucrats unrelated to him drain the city budget without producing any demonstrable benefits for the city. Because he was a willing participant in the creation of a department that was neither human nor resourceful. Because he let the institution he was running become more important than the services it was meant to provide. Because of the shoddy, disgraceful level of competence of agencies under his direction.

Nepotism is a charming eccentricity compared with the failure of institutions like DC General or Forest Haven. But we don't fire officials for doing their jobs badly. We get them on their own grounds. Violation of regulations.

Fair enough. For the most important rule that Joe Yeldell ignored was the old standard of politics: 'people will forgive almost anything if you cut them in on the action.' Joe gave the people little and took more than his share. That's greed, an impeachable offense.

But we shouldn't kid ourselves. Yeldell's replacement will be up against institutional problems that the muckrake will not scrape away. Personal corruption is simply not the main reason that government doesn't work.

For the moment, however, we can sit back and enjoy some of the secondary perversions of democracy, comforted by the thought that things are not going wrong despite the fact that everyone did their best. That would be too much to take and, fortunately, in the DC government there is little danger that we shall reach that point of indisputable, irrevocable, irreparable failure for some time. As long as someone sluffs off or skims off, and we can blame them, we're safe.

## Eco-politics

JON STEWART

DESPITE the resounding defeat of six anti-nuclear initiatives on state ballots November 2, environmentalists insist they won the day with the election of Jimmy Carter.

"We won the big one," said Carl Pope, a spokesman for the Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters. "The White House is so much more important than the individual issues on the ballots, and for the first time we're going to have a sympathetic White House."

Pope predicts that Carter's record and stand on environmental issues — including his public support for Oregon's nuclear safety initiative — presages "some positive action in the environmental area in the next few years."

But while environmental advocates rejoiced over Carter's election, the reaction to other environment-related races ranged from disappointment to shock.

The biggest surprises came in the wide margins of defeat for the nuclear safeguards initiatives in Colorado (70-30), Ohio (68-32), Oregon (58-42), Washington (67-33), Arizona (70-30) and Montana (60-40). As recently as two to three weeks before the election local polls in Colorado, Oregon and Washington had shown the measures winning by up to two-to-one.

Coloradans also voted heavily against a ban on non-returnable bottles, designed to force industry to recycle. But similar bottle bills passed in Michigan and Maine and lost by a half percent in Massachusetts.

Supporters of the nuclear initiatives — which would have halted further nuclear construction until questions of safety and waste disposal and liability were solved by industry — blamed massive opposition spending by utilities and industry for the defeats.

"We feel this election was clearly bought," said Meladee Martin of Coloradans for Safe Power. She contends pre-election campaign spending reports indicate that opposition forces poured some \$550,000 into defeating the nuclear initiative, compared to about \$90,000 spent by supporters. Roughly 60 percent of the opposition spending in Colorado reportedly came from out-of-state corporations.

"Our feeling," said Martin, "is that we've got to get a law that says you can't contribute corporate money to a citizens' initiative campaign."

Anti-nuclear organizers in Oregon and Washington expressed similar opinions. Said Dave Howard of Washington's Coalition for Safe Energy: "What we learned is that you can buy elections."

Howard claims that an opposition spending blitz in the last ten days of the campaign pushed spending over \$1 million, compared to less than \$100,000 by pro-initiative forces. He noted that the combined spending by Ford, Carter, Gov-elect Dixy Lee Ray and her opponent amounted to little more than half of what the initiative opponents spent, which broke down to almost 80 cents per vote.

The one victory for opponents of nuclear power came in Missouri, where voters approved a measure to ban the utility practice of raising some of the money for construction of power facilities by hiking their rates to consumers — as opposed to borrowing or floating bonds. The law is expected to have its greatest impact on nuclear power development, which requires more capital than other types of power plants.

Bruce Rosenthal of the DC-based Critical Mass organization, an anti-nuclear Ralph Nader group, says the two most important factors in the defeats were the "massive nationwide utility and industry effort to defeat the initiatives," and the fact that nuclear foes are still "in the midst of a major re-education process."

But Rosenthal sees a silver lining in the clouds of defeat: "The referenda

this year have turned the nuclear issue into one that is getting national publicity and one that became a presidential issue, where it was defined in much clearer terms than most other issues."

The Sierra Club's Pope agreed that nuclear power "is a hard issue for the public to grapple with. It takes strong leadership from the White House," he says, "to provide that kind of mass education."

Pope believes that Carter's administration will provide the impetus for anti-nuclear initiatives to pass in 1978.

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### DC EYE CONTINUED

**CHANGES:** Jim Hightower, ex of the Agriculture Accountability Project, the Fred Harris campaign and sometime DC Gazetteer, has taken over as editor of the Texas Observer. . . Jim Herrewig, seven years one of the activists at the Metropolitan Washington Planning & Housing Association, is off to Arizona to become head of the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Office. Jim and his photographer wife Pat also have been contributors to the Gazette. . . BILL MUNGER has resigned as director of the Washington Peace Center to take a job teaching in Oregon.

**BICYCLE HOTLINE** needs volunteers. Sponsored by the Urban Bikeway Design Collaborative and the DC Department of Transportation. Call Martha, 546-7043, for information.

**YES EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.** Workshops, lectures, and classes in meditation, consciousness expansion, body movement and dance, Eastern arts and philosophy, Tai Chi, yoga, alternative medicine, astrology, nutrition and much more. 338-7676 or write Yes, 1035 31st St, NW, DC 20007.

**THE SELMA M. LEVINE SCHOOL OF MUSIC** will provide instruction for serious music students, both beginning and advanced. Instruments will be taught individually. There will also be early childhood music (including preschool string classes), music theory on several levels, composition, and ensemble work. Write the school at 3526 Mass. Ave, NW, or call 244-1246.

**THE CLASSIC** response to the sort of predictment in which Walter Washington finds himself was Mayor Daley's answer when questioned by reporters about corruption among his aides. Said Daley, even Jesus had one disciple who doubted him, one who denied him and one who betrayed him. . . . JERRY MOORE WENT TO UNUSUAL lengths in the last campaign to distinguish himself from Doug Moore. At polling places there were reprints of a newspaper article on the trouble he was having being mistaken for Doug and his campaign posters emphasized his first name, partially hiding the word "Moore" behind a photo of his face. . . . THE ANNUAL ACLU DINNER takes place December 15 with Dan Schorr as the award recipient and Benjamin Hooks as speaker. Tickets are \$35 each which sounds like a lot unless you happen to be one of those folks who might be in jail or suffering some other governmental abuse if it weren't for the ACLU. . . . THE WOODLEY PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION and the parish council of St. Thomas Apostle Church are pressing for an investigation into charges that Connecticut Avenue apartment buildings discriminate against parents with small children and the elderly.

**THE VIRGINIA STATE AIR POLLUTION** Control Board has proposed a change in the level at which an air pollution alert would be called. It's all very complex but the end result is that for

the Washington area the last four years would only have produced three alerts of seven days instead of the 18 alerts lasting 61 days that were actually called. Doesn't that make you breathe easier?

### LAST OF THE BLUE WHALES CONTD

Ions of milk are forced into the infant's mouth under pressure as though propelled by gigantic hydraulic pumps.

Most of the time during the first month -- before the infant can swim -- the mother supports her offspring with her fins.

The blue is not gregarious, like many of the other species, and prefers to spend its life as a solitary giant. Whalers report mothers taking fearsome protective measures when a juvenile is under attack, and later showing great grief if the calf is captured, often thrashing and leaping for hours.

In recent years techniques for attaching telemetering equipment to the animals have been developed in efforts to track their movements. Dr. Donald Siniff of the Bio-Science Center at the University of Minnesota says proposals have been made for satellite monitoring of the tiny transmitters once they are attached to the whales.

However, no one has suggested a way to make 100 tons of whale hold still long enough to attach the device.

Today there is little for the would-be student to study. Dr. Edward Mitchell of the Canadian Fisheries and Marine Service, a recognized authority on the subject of whales, says that he has journeyed thousands of miles for the opportunity to dissect beached whales and has never had the opportunity to examine firsthand the carcass of a dead blue.

### ATTENTION COMMUNITY GROUPS!

You can publish a newsletter in the Gazette and reach 3000 readers for only \$20. It's simple. Type your copy on an 8½ x 11 sheet (use a carbon ribbon) and send it in to us along with a check for \$20. Deadline: 3rd Tuesday of the month. 1739 CONN AVE NW DC 20009

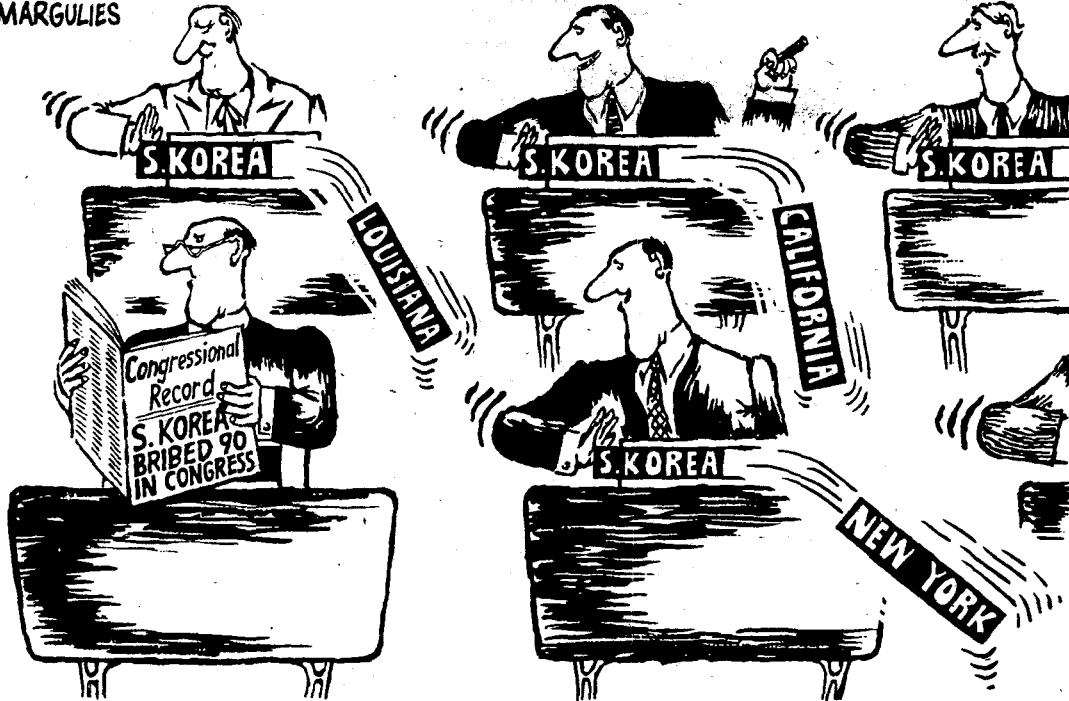
## DC GAZETTE

1739 Connecticut Ave NW (#2)  
DC 20009  
232-5544

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads which should be submitted by the third Tuesday. The Gazette welcomes short articles but cannot afford to pay for them at this time. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Zodiac News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$6 a year. Single copies are 40¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

EDITOR: Sam Smith  
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John Cranford  
ARCHITECTURAL CRITIC: John Wiebenson.

MARGULIES



There does exist one complete skeleton of a bale whale in the museum at La Plata, Argentina. Weighing over 100 tons and measuring over 100 feet long, this behemoth perished when it ran aground at the beach city of Miramar in a mysterious ritual of suicide.

Probably the best remaining information on the blue whale's anatomy is in the memories of the few remaining "flencers" aboard the Japanese or Russian whaling vessels. Flencing is the art of cutting up a whale for processing aboard a factory ship, a soon-to-be-lost art -- one way or another.

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#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONTINUED

unaccounted for could be related to work and its attendant hazards, particularly stress."

If workers remain aloof from the environmentalists' concerns with the effects of toxins on ecological systems it may be because, as Ashford observes, the latter have only slowly begun to realize that "pollution almost always begins in a workplace and that exposures of people to toxic substances is often many times more serious in workplace environments than elsewhere."

Clearly, the workers in industry need help -- help they are not now likely to receive without a public outcry similar to that which resulted in passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. Indeed, Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso, a medical consultant to the International Association of Machinists, said recently that "a vocal segment of society... expects workers to die for the right to work."

#### FLOTSAM & JETSAM CONTINUED

Count Six: The Freak Approach. At one point they almost wrote a contract with a gargantuan professional wrestler. Then someone in the front office got wise. There are people out there who still think it's a sport, he probably explained. But the fact is that football, like basketball, places an abnormal value on physical excess. There's nothing wrong with this in itself, but we should realize that what we are observing is often not so much a demonstration of athletic ability as of bulk or height. If you are the biggest fullback you don't have to be the best.

Count Seven: The Debilitation of the Spectator. The watching of football and other sports has become a substitute for physical activity on the part of the spectator. I believe that part of the attraction of television sports is a subconscious belief that the karma of athlete is transmitted to the viewer through the tube. Unfortunately, there is no meta-

this situation does not improve with age, especially in that category of American males most glued to the Sunday tube. We send our top six percent to the Olympics and the stadium. A much higher percentage we send to the intensive care unit.

Count Eight: The Obliteration of Everything Else. The obsession with football interrupts many facets of life, not the least being sports itself. One example: A few weeks ago 1500 persons started in the Marine Marathon here. More than a thousand finished. Based on participation it was probably the largest sporting event ever held in the area. As far as the local media were concerned, though, it was a sidelight. It rated a couple of photos and cutlines. No stats, no detail, no real coverage. The press was following the money not the athletes and so once again devoted its space to football.

FOR ME THAT'S enough. Enough reasons to long for a new year, for a temporary end to superbowl, wildcards, and draft choices. For me there's enough greed and brutality in the real world. A good sport takes us away from the avarices and perversions of the mind and lets us discover skill, speed, strength, grace and surprise that lie beneath the shoulders. A good sport is fun. It's play. Football is neither. It is hard, mean, power-grubbing, hurtful work. Because, instead of releasing us from the less admirable aspects of our world, it has chosen to emulate them.

- SAM SMITH

## Far SE Pennsylvania Ave. Corridor Notes

By Commissioner James H. Hannahan, ANC 7B

Recent days have been filled with a flurry of activity by citizens of ANC 7B, addressing a variety of issues of concern, both internal and external to the community. The ANC 7B community was well represented among the loud and resounding choruses of NO!, NO!, NO!, to METRO's Phase II proposals which call for drastic rescheduling of bus service linking rail terminals and an enormous rate hike for commuters using both bus and rail service. Joining in the public protest with formal statements at hearings conducted by METRO at Hine J.H.S. recently, were the following from the ANC 7B area:

DENNIS COPELAND, Chairman, ANC 7B Committee on Transportation; BOB TOMPKINS, for the Hillcrest Citizens Association; HARRY KAPLAN, for the Naylor Dupont Community Coalition; and LEN LEWIS, for the Ann Beers Community School.

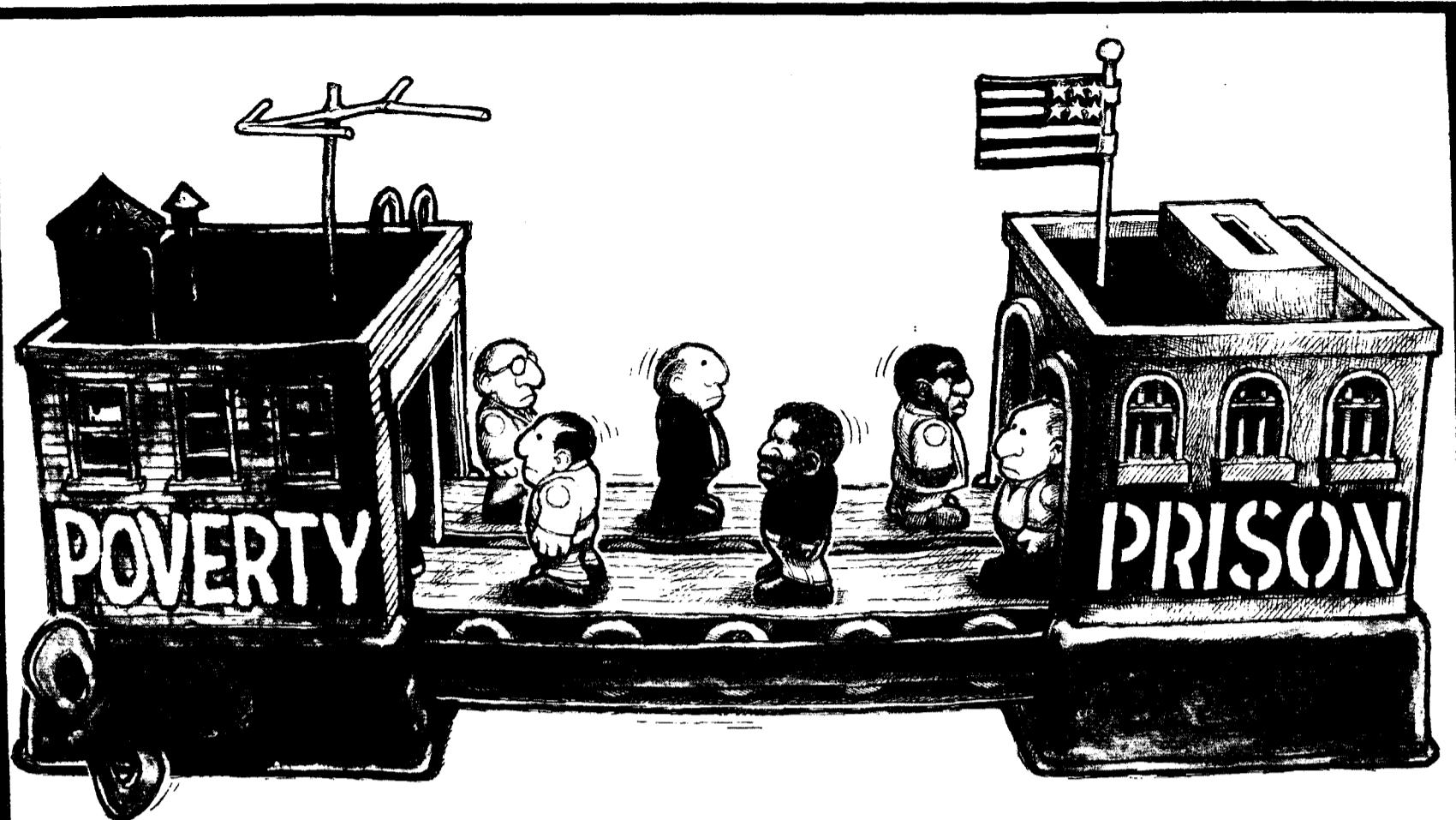
HATS OFF TO SUPERINTENDENT IRA J. HUTCHINSON, NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS-EAST AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR INITIATIVES, DEDICATION AND PLAIN HARD WORK THAT HAS

BROUGHT TO THIS COMMUNITY SOME OF THE FINEST URBAN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING IN THE ENTIRE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SYSTEM. Superintendent Hutchinson is also to be commended for supporting the newly created Citizens Advisory group to the NCP-E which will work with the Park Service to assure that the community gets the word in a timely way on summer youth employment opportunities next year. The ANC 7B Education Committee was well represented at a Friendship

House sponsored city-wide meeting where a decision was made to organize a

Parent Union in D.C. Committee members included: ARTHUR YOUNG, MARGARET JONES, CHARLES GRIMES, SHIELA MILBOURNE, LINDA WATSON and PAULA BENNETT. The ANC 7B

Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, under the able chairmanship of BOB TOMPKINS, needs assistance (more warm bodies) in taking on such tasks as: the revitalization of Skyland Shopping Center, the improvement of Metro bus and rail service and educating the community on utility rate issues.



We have erred, as you know well.

You recently received a letter urging you to support your University with a gift to the Foundation. What we both know is that you had already done so.

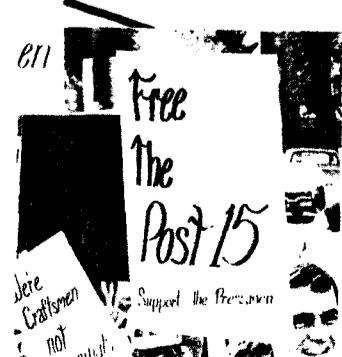
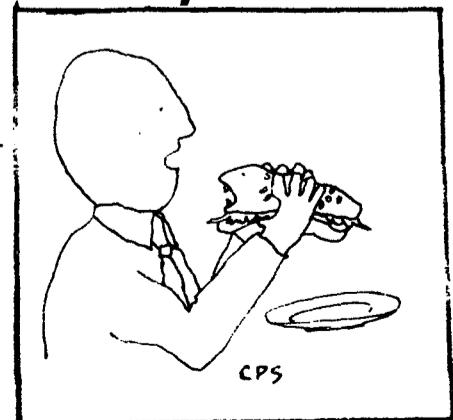
Your gift had been received and recorded properly. By no means did we plan to send you this last solicitation. To prevent this from happening, we sent your coded name and address to our data processing center where our address labels are run. It was the intent that your name be deleted from the mailing list, together with other previous donors.

What can we say? Something obviously went wrong and your name and address were printed on a mailing label despite our sincere efforts to avoid it. It is not something that can be excused. It is our hope, however, that you will understand and know how much we appreciate your support and count on your continued loyalty.

With sincere apologies,

*F. C. Winding, Jr.*

F. C. Winding, Jr.  
Associate Director



## flotsam & jetsam

IT'S almost over. Our autumnal orgy of orchestrated injury, our paean to triumph at any cost, the pageant of American Darwinism. Football season.

I treat football season like February. I avoid it whenever possible. But like February, one must leave town or face it at some point. It looms nightly as a desert to cross in order to learn both the evening news and the weather. It turns up on television sets incongruously propped in strange locations so we can follow the game as well as do whatever else we had planned for that afternoon. It speaks to us with Orwellian omnipresence from screens in bars, behind store counters and perched on stools in parking lot shacks. My bank, in a singular departure from its normal practice of applying service charges to every transaction, offers me a free guide to it each year. It is the male thing of which to speak during the darkening months and if one wishes more than a cursory conversation with other males more than a cursory glance at the sports pages is required. For while it is all right to be indifferent to baseball, soccer, hockey — even basketball if one is discreet about it — indifference to football verges on androgyny or worse. Skip the totems if you like — the "I like Billy" bumper stickers and the logo-festooned wool cap, but avoid the issue completely? Never.

Well, the truth is that not only am I indifferent to football, I don't like it. I can find only two things good about professional football. The first is that it is so popular in Washington that no otherwise pleasant friend has invited me to attend a Redskins game. The second is that it may serve the nation to some extent by sublimating violence that could be expressed in more dangerous forms. Football is part of the pornography of violence and, if we accept the liberal sociologists' view of such matters, it is perhaps wisest to let the Battle of America be won on the playing fields of RFK Stadium.

I say perhaps. The evidence is cloudy. We managed to engage in the most stupid war of our history while at the peak of arousal over professional football. And we are regressing into the state-contrived violence of capital punishment, SWAT squads, and massive subsidization of foreign and domestic police state activities apparently unappeased by the bruises of the NFL. But then, who knows what even more grizzly avocations we might find for ourselves and our nation were it not for the ritualistic release of our lust for battle on Sunday afternoons (and Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons and . . . ).

Let's grant football the benefit of the doubt. It is enough to justify its existence, I suppose, but not its veneration, its incursion into residential neighborhoods, the number of inches it occupies in a press that can't find room to tell us the basic facts of what is happening in our community, or the energy consumed by calculators figuring the average number of punts blocked or the median gain per pass play.

Football has not always been such an abnormal preoccupation of Americans. For many years it kept its place as an outlet for the amateur excess aggressions of the young who would later find more fruitful expression of their drives. At least one grew up out of college ball to become president. Another made it to the Supreme

Court. Exceptions to be sure, but exceptions are notably absent in the ranks of ex pro-ball players who grow up, it would appear, to be car dealers, real estate agents and sports announcers.

Football was kept in its place in part by the American love of baseball, that remarkably friendly game that more than any other sport seemed to reflect national political and social ideals. Slow as a bill working its way through Congress, enamored of individual eccentricity, full of conflict between citizen (ball player) and authority (umpire), organized in American technological fashion with a specialist for every position all working towards the same goal but keeping a genteel distance from each other, dependent upon skills other than physical size (the weight and height of ball players appeared on baseball cards for color rather than as prime data) and featuring the pitcher as democratic hero, recallable upon loss of a vote of confidence, baseball was closely attuned to the way we were.

But we didn't stay the way we were. As America's imperial longings became more apparent, as merchandising considerations increasingly insinuated themselves into every corner of our values, as our businesses merged and our minds conglomerated at the drop of anything bigger, more exaggerated or more "super," and as television demanded larger and larger audiences as the price of admission to its cameras, the countless, casual, dreamy and so unextraordinary afternoons of baseball no longer were what we were about. Baseball had been a way of life for America, but America's life had lost its way. As we lost confidence in the future, we needed something that would fulfill the moment — the moment that was increasingly to serve the functions of past, present and future. We no longer wished to wait a half a year to find out who had won or lost or to choose our heroes only after observing their performance in scores of games. Professional football brought us the Big Event — history in an afternoon, destiny a baker's dozen of hours on a 100-yard patch of artificial turf.

Baseball is different. As Eugene McCarthy said the other day, theoretically, a game could go on forever. A ball hit out of the park could travel to infinity. And baseball has a past that echoes with every crack of the bat. A definite past, an indefinite but achievable future — the late America, replaced in politics, entertainment and sports by a procession of events unrelated except by hyperbole with which they are described.

Count one of the indictment. Astro-success substituted for the carefully seeded natural blades of achievement. I was in the cavernous waiting room of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station recently when Mohammed Ali walked in. The entire Philadelphia patronage of Amtrak for that hour stared as much as it dared. I remembered the first time I saw him. It was 1961 or so. I was in the lobby of the Louisville Courier Journal and this black tornado roared out of the elevator bragging, yakking, dancing. Who's that, I asked. Cassius Clay. Who's Cassius Clay?

Now I knew. And the reason I knew was that beyond the braggadocio, the hype that no Madison Avenue copywriter would be brazen enough to emulate, was quantifiable achievement, achievement attained over enough years, with enough pain, to prove its worth. Boxing is a brutal game too, too brutal for my inclinations, but at least it knows how to find a hero.

Football has its heroes. But as in contemporary politics and contemporary music, the real ones are obscured by the institutional necessity to make every action heroic, dramatic or controversial. The truth simply does not out at a velocity adequate to pro football's economic demands. Football has premised itself on the existence of supermen. When it can not produce them or activities worthy of them,

it and the press that fawns over it simply lies to us.

Count two. George Allen. The pluperfect coach — until he began to lose. The cold face of mindless striving. The least attractive culture hero not accused of any illegality. Proof that we wouldn't have liked Nixon even if he had been honest. Proof that you can take the fun out of any game if you are willing to try hard enough.

Count Three: The Sports Media. Bad enough in any sport, their tediousness alternating with unctuous imperiousness during football season is insufferable. Other than providing scores, pointless trivia and readily observable facts, football journalists essentially have three things to tell you:

After a win: the team was playing at its best or, alternatively, despite injuries to P.J. Frugnagle, it put on one of the best performances in recent football history.

After a loss: Your team has disgraced itself with the most inexcusable display of fumbling about ever observed by this scholar of the sport.

Prior to a win or loss: On any given day, any given team can beat any other given team.

No one has explained to these fellows that the expression of bar room opinions does not constitute enlightened commentary. A few — the funnies like Warner Wolf and Howard Cosell — have turned the occupation into a form of pop art, but on the whole I find the sports media as obnoxious as George Allen. This left me hard-pressed to decide with whom to sympathize when the former began jumping all over the latter. I found myself reluctantly leaning towards Allen who at least has demonstrated some human skill. On any given day any given person can outclass any given sports writer or announcer.

Count Four. The Carnage. Football not only involves an unreasonable number of individual injuries but a progressive deterioration of the physical health of nearly all players. The spectator is not viewing an occasional accident, but the pandemic maiming of most of those on the field. This problem is most severe in pro ball, but it is a characteristic of the game all the way down to the little leagues. Football is actually an anti-athletic endeavor since its main physiological effect is to hurt and destroy bodies rather than to make them stronger.

Count Five: Authoritarianism. The sport is organized along extraordinarily authoritarian lines, with plays committed to paper in advance and individual innovation encouraged only when the play goes astray.

The coach assumes an importance unparalleled in sports. The concept of a team representing a blend of individual initiative is replaced in football by a system dependent upon each player doing precisely what he is told, providing yet another parallel to recent American political and economic history.

(Please turn to page 18)

